

EMERGING INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

2022-01-27

Anti-Vaccination Mandate Convoy Protests

The following is derived from multiple sources of information. Variable source reliability and credibility has been factored into assessment(s). Analytic confidence in this reporting is MODERATE. Judgments are based on credibly sourced and plausible information, but there is insufficient quality or corroboration to warrant a higher level of confidence.

Background

On 23 January 2022, an OTTAWA-bound cross-Canada 'Freedom Convoy 2022' departed VANCOUVER in protest of the vaccine mandate – effective as of 15 January 2022 – requiring unvaccinated Canadian truckers re-entering Canada from the United States to get tested for COVID-19 and quarantine.

A series of truck convoys are being planned to coincide with the anticipated 'Canada Freedom Convoy' arrival at PARLIAMENT HILL on 29 January 2022. Mobile protests are currently being planned around the ALBERTA LEGISLATURE, FORT MCMURRAY, and border crossings in COUTTS, CARWAY, and DEL BONITA.

Associated groups and individuals are generally calling for all levels of government in Canada to stop the use of vaccine passports, waive fines linked to COVID-19, and reinstate employees who were dismissed for non-compliance with COVID-19 rules. There are no indicators of planned violence at this time; however, widespread traffic disruptions appear likely.

Alberta Legislature-Bound Convoys

Convoys are being planned across Alberta with the goal of reaching the Alberta Legislature by 1300 hrs.

Alberta 2022 Legislature Slow Roll Convoy¹ and Freedom Convoy Support Edmonton²

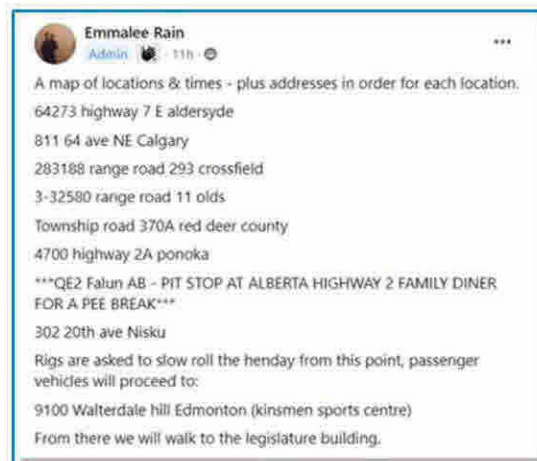
An EDMONTON-bound group appears to be intending to depart from the ALDERSLYDE area, south of Calgary at 07:00 hrs, travelling through CROSSFIELD, OLDS, PENHOLD, PONOKA, and NISKU.

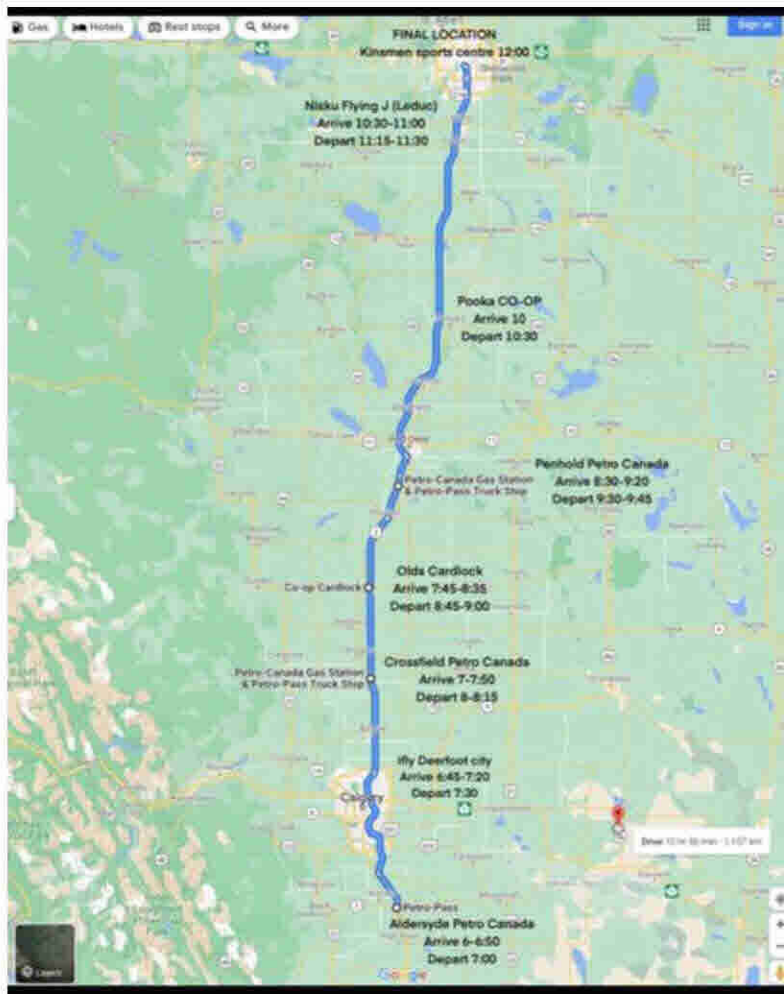
Their central point of meeting is identified as the KINSMEN SPORTS CENTRE (9100 Walterdale Hill, Edmonton).

Original organizers of this event were cautioned against the planned protest, subsequently cancelling the event and ceasing organizing activities.

A social media account associated with an Emmalee RAIN, appears to have re-established the previous plan.

Social media commentary indicates some intention to keep large vehicles out of EDMONTON CITY CENTRE, with rigs conducting a 'slow roll' along the ANTHONY HENDAY.

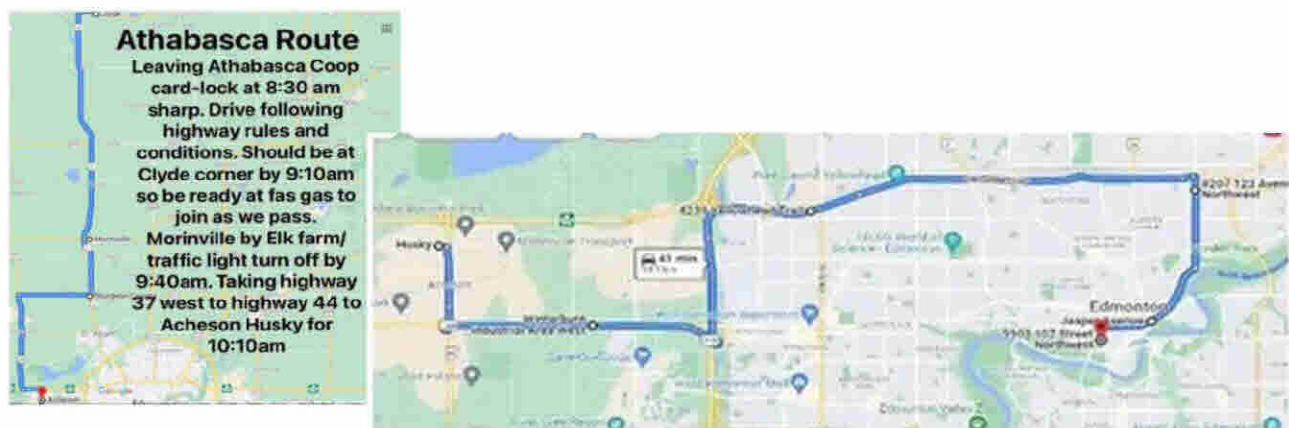




Aldersyde to Edmonton Route

Athabasca - Acheson – Edmonton Route³

A LEGISLATURE-bound route indicates departure from ATHABASCA CO-OP CARDLOCK at 08:30hrs, with transit through MORNINVILLE, HWY 37, HWY 44, and stop at ACHESON HUSKY at 10:10 hrs. Intent is to depart ACHESON HUSKY at 11:00hrs for the LEGISLATURE, via HWY 60, HWY 16A, ANTHONY HENDAY, the YELLOWHEAD, and 82 STREET.



Midnight Brothers Convoy⁴

Approximately 321 social media profiles have responded with an indication of planned attendance to a Legislature-bound convoy departing LEDUC (5230 50th Ave) at 12:00 hrs, proceeding north on the QE2. Planning includes an intent for a stop at WALMART (3931 Calgary Trail NW, EDMONTON), and departure for the LEGISLATURE at 12:45 hrs. Indicators suggest this event will be focused on organizing supportive individuals in non-commercial vehicles.



For everybody interested in supporting the truckers that are making the trek all the way to Ottawa, we are organizing a convoy from Leduc to the Alberta Legislature. We will be meeting at Audrey's Kitchen in Leduc (5230 50th Ave, Leduc, AB T9E 6V2) for 11 am. Convoy will be heading out at Noon. Don't skip we're not waiting. From there we're gonna head north on the QE2 and make a first stop at the Walmart on gateway (3931 Calgary Trail NW, Edmonton, AB T6J 7A9) If you are from the city you are welcome to just join us there. 12:45 we will be leaving Walmart to make our way to the Alberta Legislature!! See less

Barrhead Freedom Convoy⁵

Approximately 11 social media profiles have responded with an indication of planning to attend a mobile protest departing from BARRHEAD at 10:00 hrs. This event includes an intent to circle the ANTHONY HENDAY before preceding to the LEGISLATURE. This event appears to primarily focus on supporting the larger convoys, but may be comprised largely of personal vehicles.

Let's show our support for freedom and unity. Any vehicle will do but the bigger the better. We will be staging on the service road in front of the splash park and bowling alley. Convoy leaves at 10am on Saturday morning the 29th. I think well do a round on the Henday and then head into the city center to show our support at the legislature area. I could use someone who is a little more city savvy to help me navigate the down town leading what is hopefully an awful lot of fed up people. And let's see some Canada flags!

Additional Routes

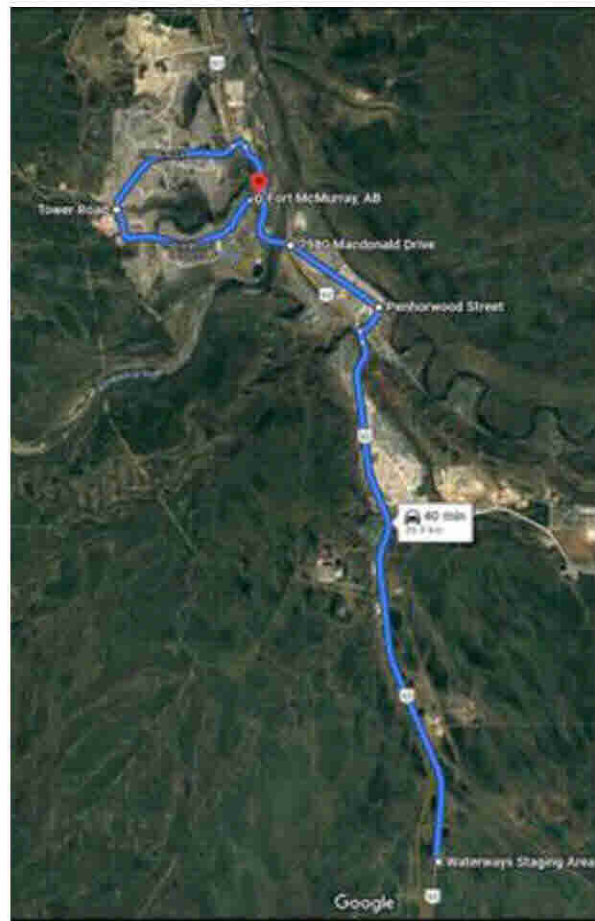
Social media chatter indicates additional routes starting in CARDSTON, passing through FORT MCLEOD; departing BROOKS at 05:30 hrs; departing LLOYDMINSTER and passing through MUNDARE around 11:00 hrs.

Fort McMurray Event

Freedom Convoy 2022 Fort McMurray⁶

This event is labelled a "mini drive in support of the Freedom Convoy 2022 to end ALL mandates". It is unclear how many are planning to attend. Social media indicates intent for large trucks to depart from the WATERWAYS STAGING AREA (Hwy 63 Northbound, north of 881 turn off) at 12:00 hrs. Smaller vehicles and trucks are intended to gather at GREGOIRE PETROPASS (365 MacAlpine Cres), lining up on MACALPINE CRESCENT. This group then intends to travel down MACKENZIE BLVD to HIGHWAY 63 and fall into line behind the large trucks. The Convoy intends to travel down the highway, turning right on to PRAIRIE LOOP and left on to FRANKLIN AVE continuing on Franklin to the BRIDGE, up to CONFEDERATION WAY RAMP, looping around to THICKWOOD BLVD and back to the highway.

COMMENT: This event is not expected to draw a significant number away from the key convoys moving towards Edmonton. COMMENT ENDS



Fort McMurray Route

Border Convoys

Solidarity groups in Southern Alberta have indicated intention to conduct convoys to the COUTTS (Hwy 4), CARWAY (Hwy 2), and DEL BONITA (Hwy 62) border crossings. The Alberta events coincide with other known protests at border crossings in Maine, Michigan, Montana, New Brunswick, and Ontario.⁷

Border Freedom Rally & Convoy⁸

The COUTTS event indicates intent to congregate at 05:00 hrs at FLYING J on 43rd Street in LETHBRIDGE, with expected departure 06:00 hrs and slow roll (40-50 km/hr) down Hwy 4 towards the border crossing.

Alberta Block the Border⁹

This route indicates intent to depart from the SHELL STATION in FORT MCLEOD at 08:00 hrs, transiting Hwy 2 to CARDSTON, with some continuing along Hwy 2 to CARWAY and others taking EXIT 501 to DEL BONITA.

COMMENT: COUTTS is likely be the largest as it is both the most active border crossing and is attracting the most attention on social media. DEL BONITA is closed on Saturday, though it is unknown if the organizers are aware of this. CBSA and Southern Alberta RCMP are aware and are monitoring the situation. No officer safety concerns have been identified, but traffic disruptions are expected. **COMMENT ENDS**



Source: [Freedom Hub Lethbridge](https://www.freedomhublethbridge.com/)

General Assessment

A number of separate groups appear to be organizing independently of one another, resulting in fluid and inconsistent planning.

Some Legislature-bound groups appear to be planning to use the ANTHONY HENDAY as the destination for the large trucks, with the intent of conducting a slow-roll protest similar to previous UNITED WE ROLL and RALLY 4 RESOURCES events. Others have expressly stated their intent to enter EDMONTON city centre with large vehicles, likely with the intent of significant traffic disruption. There has been discussion of attempting to ensure that emergency and service vehicles are not impeded; however, given the level of apparent disorganization and unfamiliarity of many potential attendees with EDMONTON's key corridors this intent may not succeed.

Some of the planned convoys have been organized around the same networks that were involved in organizing pro-oil and gas industry truck convoys that travelled to OTTAWA in 2019. A number of the same organizing figures are involved; however, there are number of newly identified and previously unknown individuals who appear to have taken leadership roles for the various 29 January 2022 convoys.

While there are no indications at this time of planned violence, online commentary does reflect some anti-government/anti-authority sentiments common amongst the anti-PHO community. Some allusions to the January 6, 2021 riot in WASHINGTON DC have been made in relation to the events in Ottawa, although organizers have reported to law enforcement partners that they have been, or have attempted to be explicit about the need for peaceful protest.

A number of key figures within Alberta's anti-PHO community that have come to the attention of law enforcement for previous comments and actions pushing the boundaries of *Charter* protected speech appear to be involved in the convoy protests, although many appear to have moved into the background as planning efforts have been taken up by other individuals.

Based on information available at this time, the aggregate risk of planned violence appears to be LOW. It remains possible that the chaotic planning and highly emotive nature of these protest could lead to outbursts of anger and impromptu expression of violent activity stemming from traffic disruptions and confusion surrounding the convoys as a whole.

- 1 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/618110976149355>
- 2 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5117435928287081>
- 3 <http://allfiredupforfreedom.com/>
- 4 <https://www.facebook.com/events/239566751686015>
- 5 <https://www.facebook.com/events/653017476136070>
- 6 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4790902437684454/announcements>
- 7 <https://freedomfighternation.org/freedom-convoy/>
- 8 <https://freedomhubblethbridge.substack.com/p/border-rallies-and-convoys>
- 9 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/317514156999830>

***** REPORT ENDS *****

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